(b) and (c) RBI does not maintain sector-wise details of the rates of interest charged by Public Sector Banks on various kinds of loans. However, it has been reported by them that:

the lending rates on demand loans levied by the Public Sector Banks came down from the range of 6.5-16.25 per cent in June 2002 to the range of 5.5-15.5% in June 2003.

actual lending rate for Public Sector Banks on pre-shipment (up to 180 days) rupee export credit came down from the range of 7.25-9.50 per cent in June 2002 to the range of 6.25-9.00 per cent by end June 2003.

the range of prime lending rates (PLRs) of Public Sector Banks remained unchanged at 9.00-12.25 per cent, however, 14 Public Sector Banks have lowered their PLRs by 25-75 basis points between March and October 2003; and

interest rate on food credit, which is based on the average of PLR of 5 major Public Sector Banks, at present, works out to 10.95 per cent.

Financial performance of IA

*14. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Indian Airlines has been continuously incurring loss which has been commented by the CAG in its latest report;

(b) whether delay in aircraft fleet maintenance, poor revenue management, injudicious implementation of the promotional fares and underutilisation of cargo capacity were the main reasons given by the CAG;

(c) whether IA is expected to post a net loss of Rs. 93.98 crores in the first six months (April-September) of the current fiscal year; and

(d) if so, steps Government propose to take to improve its position after CAG's report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the first six months, *i.e.* April-September 2003, the Company suffered a net loss (provisional) of Rs.103.50 crores as against the budgeted loss of Rs.134.91 crores for the same period.

(d) Indian Airlines has been taking measures and working out strategies on on-going basis to improve its financial performance and bring about qualitative and quantitative improvements in the product offered through augmentation/replacement of existing fleet, improvement in maintenance practices, better revenue management, increase in the utilisation of cargo capacity, innovative and aggressive marketing schemes and various cost cutting measures.

Fake stamp papers

†*15.SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fake stamp papers have been seized in some Banks during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of persons found involved in the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Accordingto information received from RBI, no Bank has reported about seizure of fake stamp papers from them.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Excavations at Qutab Heritage

*16. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of many artefacts found during excavations at Qutab Heritage Complex only 18 were last shifted out in 1998 and the rest are left unattended although many of these artefacts are from the 27-odd Jain and Hindu temples that were discovered in the Complex during ASI operations;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.